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April 8, 2002

Federal Communications Commission  
Mr. William Caton, Office of Secretary  
445 – 12<sup>th</sup> S.W., Room T W – A 325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Mr. Caton

As President of South Plains Communications in Lubbock, Texas it is with great interest that I read and studied the NEXTEL proposal, "Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band," Docket No. 02-55. Speaking on behalf of the largest two-way communication company in the South Plains region of Texas and for the people who will be directly affected by any change, I appreciate the opportunity to comment and respectfully ask your consideration.

Since September 11, 2001 we are all keenly aware of the significance of safety and security. We too concur that public safety communication is a top priority for the security of all. We agree that interference on these channels can pose potential dangers. Like the Commission, we too are concerned that the appropriate solution is reached in a timely manner.

When NEXTEL offered 500 million dollars to the public safety industry to help solve the interference problem it became all too apparent that this is an attempt on their part to influence the public safety industry into advocating and endorsing their solution. This money could be better spent if they would apply it to solving the interference problems that they have created. We are keenly aware that NEXTEL is relentless in their pursuit of growth and acquisition in the communication industry. Calling for a reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band is a political move that is being perceived by many, and rightly so, as an attempt by NEXTEL to gain a monopoly of the 800 MHz band. Squeezing two-way communication businesses and other independent businesses and industries out of spectrum for their own gain is a direct attack upon the very principles of the free enterprise system. It is with these concerns that I request your consideration of the following issues:

- The primary source of interference on the 800 MHz band is being created by NEXTEL and their equipment. I propose to you that a significant amount of the interference problem could quite possibly be corrected by implementing something as simple as the

appropriate transmitter-filter. This solution has been proven to correct the problem in some areas. Before millions of dollars are needlessly spent, NEXTEL should be given the opportunity to correct a problem they are responsible for having created.

- The current proposal by Cingular Wireless to move public-safety 800 operations to the 700 MHz band offers a much more logical solution to the interference problem. Even though technology for the 700 MHz band is still being developed, by the time the 800 band is reconfigured, the 700 MHz band and equipment should be in place.
- Since advances in communication technology is moving at such an incredible pace, to reconfigure the 800 band is to simply gloss over a problem rather than to address and solve it. Reconfiguring bands has been used before, but to no avail. It did not prove to be effective then and it is highly improbable that it will prove to be effective now. To glaze over the problem is to delay the solution. The same problem of interference or additional problems will arise as time goes on.
- To ask companies to switch bands at costs that could be astronomical, and in many cases financially devastating, is unreasonable. This request is selfish and totally insensitive to the American public.
- In light of the events of September 11, it is more evident than ever that we must be diligent in our efforts to maintain a high level of public safety and equipment. But, to use this massive tragedy as a means to promote and encourage confirmation of their agenda is deplorable. Interference was an issue before September 11 as well.

I respectfully propose that the Federal Communications Commission diligently explore the many possible solutions available. I applaud the Commission for seeking to do what is right for all rather than what is politically and financially advantageous for a few.

Thank you,

Jay Jenkins, President  
South Plains Communications